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The ORGANIZER

U. F. W. A. LOCAL 2
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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NOVEMBER, 1939

Adjustment Committee Reports Successes on Many Fronts

Effective action on several new cases was reported today by the Adjustment Committee of Local 2. Two of the cases involved pay increases and the others brought improved working conditions.

A technical employee rated as SP-2 was granted an administrative raise after representation was made by the Union to his superior officer. Action was taken when it was learned that although the employee had worked here 20 years, always with high efficiency ratings, he had not received an administrative raise in the past 10 years.

The appeals board set up to study the case has just made a unanimous recommendation to the Chief of the Agricultural Marketing Service requesting reclassification from CAF-3 to CAF-4 for a statistical clerk in that Bureau. The Union represented the employee on the appeals board.

Action by the Adjustment Committee also resulted in finally obtaining locker space for the colored women who operate the elevators in the South and Administration buildings. Until now they have had to use the tiny cubbyholes scattered throughout the buildings.

An order from National Park Service which would have compelled laborers in Agriculture and other Departments to purchase new uniforms was cancelled when a Committee of the N. P. S. Local 120 met with administrative officers and convinced them that this order was unfair. A representative of our own Adjustment Committee worked with the N. P. S. committee on this case.

HARVEST DANCE—NOV. 18

Whatever you do—don't miss our Union's Fall dance this Saturday evening, November 18th.

The dance—sponsored jointly by Agriculture Local 2 and Commerce Local 23 will be held in the Department of Commerce Auditorium. Music by Happy Walker's Orchestra and entertainment by the Capital Hill Quartet and the Bookshop Players is a perfect guarantee of a grand time.

Admission is 40 cents and you are invited "stag or drag." Remember this Saturday evening, (Nov. 18) in Commerce Auditorium.

BY THE WAY—

How about getting around to the next regular meeting of the Union—its on Monday, November 27, at 8 p. m. Come around to 532 17th St. and see for yourself. Also you will have a chance to hear the famous Capitol City Choir. Is it a date?

For fair promotion—fair grievance adjustment — join the U. F. W. A.

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Local 2 of the United Federal
Workers of America, CIO

President.....EDMOND HARRIS

Vice-Pres....GENIANA EDWARDS

"A SORDID PROCEDURE"

"A sordid procedure" is what President Roosevelt termed the release for publication by the Dies Committee of the names of Government employees who are members of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

We agree one hundred percent with the President on this matter. This action was both sordid and dangerous—sordid because of the dishonest method which was used to intimidate Government employees, and dangerous because the committee so clearly sought to curb these people in the exercise of their civil rights as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Our union in Agriculture will always support the right of employees to belong to any organization which seeks to bring about lawful ends by lawful means.

Help yourself . . . Join the
U. F. W. A. today!

B. A. E. EMPLOYEES TO DISCUSS WAR SITUATION

Richard H. Bready, Welfare Manager of the United Federal Workers, will discuss "Federal Workers During a War Situation" at the next regular meeting of the BAE Unit on Saturday afternoon, November 18, 1:10 p. m., in the BAE Conference Room, 2860 South Building.

Mr. Bready will review the activities of government employees in achieving their gains during the period 1914-1918, and will show what Federal workers are doing today to counteract the rising cost of living.

Employees of other Bureaus are also invited to attend this meeting.

Want 30-year optional retirement? Join the U. F. W. A.

OVERTIME OUT IN R. E. A.— HOW ABOUT YOUR BUREAU?

The administration of Rural Electrification Administration has found it possible to eliminate unnecessary overtime after consultation with the Union in R. E. A.

Our own Local has begun a drive to do the same for employees of Agriculture. First step in the drive was the gathering of detailed information regarding the overtime problem. A leaflet asking for information was recently circulated throughout the Department and many responses have come in to us which will provide a basis for intelligent action.

If you have not already done so—drop us a note by chain envelope, telling us the extent of overtime worked in your division, and giving us your suggestions for planning to eliminate that portion which you believe was unnecessary.

CIO SUPPORTS UFWA PROGRAM

Unanimous support of the program of the United Federal Workers was pledged by representatives of over four million workers at the CIO convention held in San Francisco.

CAST YOUR BALLOT ON PARKING ISSUE

There are over 600 free parking spaces which the Department of Agriculture assigns to its employees. Inquiries begun many months ago by the union revealed that the present system of assignment is subject to abuse. While the situation has not been made entirely clear to us (we doubt if it is clear even to the administration) we are convinced that the present system of assignment discriminates unfairly against employees in the lower salary brackets.

Here is the problem: These parking spaces are worth about 25 cents a day, or about \$6.50 a month. Are they to be handed out to so-called "big shots" (or favorites of "big shots") or should they be assigned on some fair and equitable basis which will give some chance to those who can least afford to pay for parking space?

We have discussed this matter with Mr. Thatcher, Chief of the Office of Plant and Operations. He is contemplating some reforms in the present system, and we are sure that he will listen to the opinions of employees on this matter. So let's have them. . . .

I favor the assignment of parking spaces according to:

☐ Length of service.

☐ Distance from work.

☐ _____

(Fill in any other suggestions)

Name _____

Bur. _____

(Optional)

Send by chain envelope to S. Rottenberg, Room 0718, South Building.

B. A. E. UNIT PUSHES ADJUSTMENT WORK

The Adjustment Committee recently interviewed Mr. Snow, Bureau Personnel Officer, to ask consideration of the case of four people who have been continuously employed for periods of about two years, under "temporary" appointments, on the income parity project of the Division of Historical and Statistical Research.

The Committee took the position that, since there is likelihood of some expansion in certain sections of the Bureau and since these employees have been working for the Bureau for two years, they should be placed on the roll of permanent employees. The employees involved are all older women and might have difficulty in getting jobs outside of the Bureau in competition with younger people. Mr. Snow said that he would have their names placed on the register from which vacancies would be filled for the jobs to which they were eligible and promised personally to follow up the matter.

* * *

Acting on behalf of a Grade 2 clerk in the Accounting Division of the Bureau, the Adjustment Committee on October 4 obtained an interview with Mr. Snow to seek a more suitable type of work for this employee. This member is now performing routine, monotonous tasks, while possessing qualifications for positions in accounting, economics or statistical fields. Mr. Snow agreed to try to have the employee transferred to a job with more promise.

* * *

These are just two instances showing how the B. A. E. unit is helping to make the Department a better place in which to work.

THE ORGANIZER

U. F. W. A. ASKS BUDGET BUREAU TO PROVIDE SALARY INCREASES

The case for a systematic administrative promotions plan in the Federal service was presented before the Bureau of the Budget by representatives of the UFWA on October 28.

The brief on behalf of government workers pointed out that the need for administrative raises has been made acute by the rise in the cost of living throughout the country. This has resulted in "pay cuts" of more than 10 percent for Federal employees.

President Baker made clear the position of the UFWA that every employee should receive an administrative raise for every year of service until he reaches the highest rate for his grade. He called attention to legislation endorsed by the UFWA which would provide for \$120 increases every five years for an employee who has reached the top of his grade.

Specifically the UFWA brief requested the Bureau of the Budget (1) to make provision for a one-step salary increase for all employees with one year of satisfactory service and (2) to grant a two-step increase to all employees who have served for five years without an increase.

The attention of the Budget Bureau was especially directed to the fact that an undue proportion of past appropriations for administrative promotions has been used in the higher brackets. This has been the natural result of an unsupervised use of the money and should be corrected by special provision in the 1941 budget for lower salaried personnel.

NAT. PARK SERVICE EMPLOYEES ORGANIZE

Maintenance employees of the Department have set up their own organizational unit of Local 2 for the purpose of dealing collectively with the National Park Service Administration.

First step in bringing about better conditions for these workers was taken when a committee of the Union met with Mr. Charles Peters of the NPS and asked him to rescind an order which had recently been issued to compel employees to buy new uniforms. Successful adjustment of this case was welcomed by the entire maintenance staff.

UNIONS OF MARYLAND AND D. C. CONVENE THIS MONTH

With delegates present from all U. F. W. A. locals in this vicinity, the Third Annual Convention of the Maryland and District of Columbia Industrial Union Council will be held November 27, 28 and 29, in Baltimore.

The objectives of the Council, as set forth in its Constitution, are "to protect, maintain and advance the interests of all working people in its territory, to extend unionism on the basis of industrial organization, to secure and enforce legislation in the interests of the working people, to promote recognition and acceptance of collective bargaining in industry, and to increase public understanding of the labor movement."

MEMBERSHIP BLANK

Name _____

Room _____ Phone _____

Send by chain envelope to
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